

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, October 12, 2010
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting:

November 9, McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Cynthia Schultz, Ted Mendoza, Toby Strout, Dave Parkhurst, George Huntington, Heidi Russell Wagner, Maggie Sullivan, Melissa Clark

Regrets: Andy Davis, Bill Brown, Amy Countryman, Dave Rollo

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Chris Bentley

Several members of the public were present

Announcements:

USGBC S. Central Indiana Chapter Meeting Oct. 19 @ 11:30 am
Community Orchard Planting was a great success

Approval of the minutes: The minutes from the September 2010 meeting were approved.

Update on STAR data collection

The Community Supported Agriculture data was updated and will be included in the STAR report; with this addition we are almost done with the food category. Jacqui will check if there have been any changes in community gardens.

No updates to health care data.

Housing study was conducted years ago (Windshield study) to measure substandard housing. The commission is okay with the removal of the substandard housing data that is included in the 2008 report since HAND said they wouldn't allow substandard rental units.

We are still lacking some of the water data—Jacqui will check if the table in the current version of the report is the most recent. We also may need to clarify the percentage value listed in the contamination report for total coliform.

Sent emails to SIREN to obtain info on the number of on-line renewable energy projects, and are waiting to hear back. Students will let us know if they need help. Jacqui asked that people go through her to make contact with Vectren and Duke. All of the necessary utility data for the 2009 update has already been obtained.

Committee Reports:

Food: The Food Committee met a couple of weeks ago to discuss a possible starter garden initiative. The group also did a tour of community gardens with two of the SPEA students and a representative from Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. Next time the group will also discuss the possibility of forming a food security council to serve the area. Maggie suggested that the group invite Michael Simmons (Parks and Rec) to the next food meeting because of his long history with food issues in the community.

Water: Met with utilities last week and talked to Pat Murphy about the Little Drip mascot idea. They are waiting to hear about the rate increase (and their ability to hire a water conservation coordinator) before taking on water conservation issues. The committee also discussed with utilities the possibility of adding information on water conservation to water bills.

Students are looking at different examples of water bill design/format. Jacqui is trying to get info on the timeline for restructuring the bill. George suggested that BCOS draft a resolution to the Mayor suggesting that water conservation information be made a priority in the new water bills. Jacqui will find out about appropriate way of presenting this idea. A resolution regarding water conservation on the new water bills will be emailed to BCOS members for their review—plan to vote on it next month.

Because there are so few members we may want to encourage Council to appoint members with a water background to the vacancies on the Commission.

Energy: Met on Sept. 28th. The group is working on the STAR report, and with the students to research indicators. The new Duke data includes an “Unknown” category of energy usage that makes up a large part of the community’s usage, so this makes it very hard to analyze.

The students are also interested in helping with the energy audits. Other ideas: bringing back shade trees and renewable energy. We don’t have a goal or vision for what sustainable energy usage looks like. Maybe that should be our next focus as a committee.

The group working on the energy audit blitz met last week, and estimate that they will be able to offer roughly 50-60 audits during this week; 27 of those will be done by the Community Action Program so they will need to meet CAP’s strict income requirements. Audits will be conducted the first full week in December.

Communications: The development of the website is progressing, and the group is seeking input—visit www.gnnbloomington.com. Setting up a membership page so people sign up. The second newsletter was also published recently. We will be tracking to see how many people use it. No more meetings of this subcommittee until further notice.

Jacqui suggested that the three committees might consider each setting a goal that could be marketed together with the other committees (for example 500 trees, 500 rainbarrels, 500 gardens)—a possible unified campaign that would get BCOS’s name out into the community and give each committee a goal to shoot for.

Other Business

Cynthia pointed out that BCOS will need to elect new officers soon. She, George, and Toby agreed to serve as the nominating committee and will propose a slate for next month’s meeting.

A motion to adjourn was called and unanimously approved at 7:25.